Irish REPORT

ALTHOUGH THE sectarian violence in Northern Ireland has had surprisingly little spill-over into the entertainment business, there have been one or two nasty incidents reported recently.

A Belfast showband had its van wrecked outside a Co. Tyrone dance-hall this week by a crowd of stone-throwing youths. The band had been unable to play a Republican song requested during their act.

In a similar incident, a leading Irish pop group had an organ badly damaged by an angry crowd.

In other areas, some bands have received threats for not playing the full 12 bars of the British National Anthem at the end of a dance.

The musicians involved, however, are quick to point out that trouble comes from small gangs, and that aggro is, for the most part, isolated to one or two troublesome venues.

IT IS ALSO being put about that in some Republican areas the I.R.A. is taking measures to curb violence in local dance-halls and clubs, where the police have restricted influence.

Strangely enough, reports of threats or violence involving visiting English acts are practically unheard of in Ireland.

DATES FOR Fruupp's homecoming tour of Ireland now include Trinity Ball, Dublin (May 19), Osibisa Club, Dublin (20), Hangar, Galway (22), Townhall, Cookstown (26), Belfield College, Dublin (27), National Stadium, Dublin (with Skid Row), also 27, and the Flamingo, Ballymena (30).

FOLLOWERS of exiled Ulster talent should look out for a new, largely acoustic, album by local lads Demick and Armstrong. It's released on the A & M label this mor th.

A "FOLK MASS" is being held at St. Aidan's Cathedral, Enniscorthy, to mark Diocesan Youth Day. Stars of the show, believe it or not, are Family.

This term's concerts at Queen's University, Belfast, underwent a last minute rearrangement. The programme was pruned to just three dates, all scheduled for the same week.

Brinsley Schwarz appeared on a double bill last Sunday (30), with Bees Make Honey.

Bees Make Honey replaced Hawkwind, who cancelled two Northern Ireland concerts — Belfast and Derry.

Brinsley fulfilled the Derry gig at Magee College on the Monday night following their Belfast concert.

Tom Paxton played a sell-out show on Wednesday night at Queen's, and the organisers reported one of the quickest and heaviest ticket sales in recent concert history at the University.

Duster Bennett is now booked to play Belfast this Sunday (7).

COLIN McCLELLAND

Welsh REPORT

STRANGE AS IT may seem, a straight soft-rock outfit is the odd one out on the current Electric Light Orchestra package.

Fishbaugh, Fishbaugh and Zorn seem a little out of water sandwiched as they are between the neo-classics of Colin Blunstone and the unusual but awe-inspiring goings-on of Roy Wood's dual-identity Electric Light Orchestra.

Nevertheless, FF and Z's imaginative brand of music was very much in demand at their recent Northern gig. The date was a fairly hard one — at Bangor University — so it was significant that the package scored pretty well.

All the same, it was the night of ELO and people were there to stare in wonder (and oft-times bewilderment) as Wood and Co. got thoroughly involved in what most seemed to look upon as an esteric experiment.

Curiosity seemed to be the thing that attracted the bulk of the large crowd — and kept them there. And afterwards, the question was: "What was it all about?"

It was incredible the number of people who thought (a) this was the new Move (b) Roy Wood had parted company with Move and formed a new band. So once again, The Move still exists and the Electric Light Orchestra has the same personnel, although it is a different concept.

☐

IT'S NICE TO know that Gypsy are back to their original strength again and wil be able to continue the rest of their tour with Morgan and Mark Aston with a full complement.

Guitarist Ray Martinez, who recently joined the band as a replacement for Rod Reed, played one of his first gigs with Gypsy at Swansea last week, so Welsh concert-goers were able to hear the band's full sound, with all three guitarists.

☐

BRISTOL COLSTON Hall has enticed another big name. This time it's Neil Diamond, who visits on June 19. Neil is due to open at the Colston Hall after a short Continental tour.

☐

AND NOW IT'S rumour-squashing time. There is absolutely no truth in the rumour that Tom Jones took a short rest-cure at a Beddgelert hotel last week.

Jones did have to take a couple of days off from his current U.S. tour because of an attack of the 'flu, but he remained over in the States.

What's more, he's going to be there for some time yet. He still has to do about three quarters of his American dates. While we're on the subject, it's nice to see a Welsh product breaking all his previous box-office records over there. Perhaps it will give a few more Welsh artistes the confidence many of them seem to lack.

MAURICE BOWER

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Evening: CAN, COMUS
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ELTON DEANS "JUST US"
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